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EA Secy HEW

Washington, D.C. 20505

19 Jan 1979

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[REDACTED] REAGER TO HIS CALL TO [REDACTED]

The Honorable Joseph A. Califano
The Secretary of Health, Education and Warfare
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Joe:

Last year the Senate conducted extensive hearings to learn about the historical interest of CIA in research to determine the effects of various drugs on human behavior. After those hearings concluded, the Agency wrote to the institutions where the research was conducted to notify them that CIA had provided funds to support their work. Since that time we have come to realize that there may be a responsibility on the part of the Government for the well being of individuals who may have been harmed by an action of the Government. If drugs or other substances were administered to individuals without their knowledge or informed consent as a part of research conducted under the direction and control of CIA, and if those individuals might still be suffering harmful aftereffects, it is felt that the Agency should seek them out and notify them.

At the outset of this very difficult task, it is of critical importance that we determine whether substances known to have been administered had a potential for causing harmful aftereffects. The knowledge and expertise in your Department would be invaluable to us in making authoritative evaluations.

If we find that harmful substances might have been administered, we would like also to have the benefit of your guidance in applying any rules or standards that may exist to govern notification of subjects possibly harmed by Government actions. It may be that your Department has working relationships with some of the institutions that could be helpful if it becomes necessary to solicit their cooperation. There also is a very real possibility that records may exist in your Department that could shed additional light on some of the research projects.

If you feel that your Department might be in a position to lend us some assistance, I would like to request that you designate a member of your staff with whom we might consult.

Any assistance you feel you can give will be greatly appreciated.

Yours,
/s/ Stansfield Turner
STANSFIELD TURNER